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64th YEAR NUMBER 19,807. RICHMOND, VA., FRIDAY, AUGUST 14, 1914. —TEN PAGES TO-DAY'S WEATHER CLOUDY PRICE 2 CENTS

ARMIES LOCK IN DEATH GRAPPLE, BATTLING ON PLAINS OF BELGIUM

GERMAN TROOPS ARE REPULSED ON FIELD OF HAELEN

Fighting Most Brilliant and Stubborn War Has Yet Witnessed.

CONTINUES ALL DAY AND FAR INTO NIGHT

Belgians Are Slaughtered by Hail of Bullets From Advancing Foe.

RALLY FOLLOWS RETREAT

Returning to Battle, They Recapture Positions and Rout Kaiser's Soldiers.

[Special Cable to The Times-Dispatch.] BRUSSELS, August 13.—Behind an almost impenetrable veil, a great battle is in progress on the plains of Belgium.

All day to-day and all day yesterday, the Germans and Belgians have been locked in a death grapple on the field of Haelen.

The Germans resumed the offensive at 5 o'clock this morning. Since then the fighting has been continuous. Beyond the fact that the vanquished of yesterday is engaged in a desperate struggle to come, the censors will permit no news to be sent out. This much it is permitted to send.

Unofficially it is stated that the German troops reformed after being repulsed last night at Haelen, and at 5 o'clock this morning the battle was renewed. Fresh Belgian troops were sent to the front in support of their comrades who had fought throughout yesterday.

It is also officially announced that the Belgian cavalry division "this morning took up the offensive against the Germans, who were defeated in yesterday's battle of Haelen, with the object, it is believed, of picking up the abandoned material of war. No German surprise was expected, and there are no reasons to fear any cavalry movements on Brussels from the south, the road leading to the capital being guarded by the Belgian army and the elite guards."

NO DETAILS PERMITTED OF PROGRESS OF BATTLE

No details are permitted of the progress of the fighting. Brief dispatches also tell of renewed fighting in the neighborhood of Longreez, north of Liege, where an artillery duel was commenced this morning.

An official Belgian communication says that a German force proceeding in the direction of Liege, to the south of Namur, was attacked and repulsed this morning by the Belgian troops. The Germans are said to have suffered severe casualties. The Belgians also captured a number of machine guns and other material.

Details of the first day's fighting at Haelen yesterday show that while the battle was the most brilliant and stubbornly contested, it was not a complete deadlock, but a struggle to the engagement which impends when the complete armies on both sides have finally maneuvered into position.

Details of the losses sustained are not at hand. According to the Belgian reports the Germans were repulsed after fierce fighting. At one place, it is declared, upwards of 200 dead Germans were counted in a space of a few square miles.

The engagement will be known as the battle of Haelen. It waged all day, and far into the night. At 5 o'clock in the evening shells were still falling.

According to the Belgian reports, the main fighting centered around Haelen, which is in the Belgian province of Zeeland, and a short distance from the town of Haelen. The battle of Diest was merely a part of the several fights all along the line.

When a patrol of carabines first sighted the German troops, the engagement, the Belgians manned the trenches, and a hot fire greeted the German advances. A slaughter of Belgians followed. Bringing their guns to bear upon the trenches, the Germans swept them with such a deadly hail of bullets that the Belgians were driven out and forced to retire into the town of Haelen.

Hand-to-hand fighting ensued as the Belgians broke the German cavalry, driving the Germans back and recapturing the defenses from which they had been driven by the German artillery.

Pursuing their advantage, the Belgians charged the Germans and forced them back in a series of desperate charges toward Hasselt and St. Trond.

To-night's advance tells that German troops in other parts of Belgium are understood to be gathering in all the railroad cars they can find. A passenger train near Waremmes was halted to-day by a German cavalry patrol and the passengers left in the open.

(Continued on Second Page.)

MOONLIGHT ON CHESAPEAKE BAY. York River line to Baltimore. Superior service. Investigating suit breeze. One trip will cost you \$3.00 one way. It and \$1.00 round trip.

RAISING PRICES "IS UNPATRIOTIC, EVEN DAMNABLE"

Redfield Denounces Attempts to Take Advantage of Trade Situation.

WILSON PUTS FEDERAL MACHINERY IN MOTION

Government Will Determine Why Cost of Living Is Being Sent Skyward.

COUNTRY TO BE DEFENDED

Congress Is Ready to Act to Prevent Increasing Prices on Pretext of War.

WASHINGTON, August 13.—President Wilson to-day set the machinery of the Federal government in motion to determine whether the cost of living is being increased "upon the pretext of the conditions existing in Europe." He called upon Attorney-General McReynolds to report if criminal prosecutions were warranted, and if any new law were necessary.

The President may send a special message to Congress in the latter event.

Certainly the country ought to be defended," the President wrote to the Attorney-General. "If possible, against men who would take advantage of such circumstances to increase the price of food and the difficulties of living."

Attorney-General McReynolds at once set at work the Bureau of Investigation of the Department of Justice, with hundreds of agents throughout the country.

Agents of the Department of Commerce also were started upon the inquiry, and Secretary Redfield conferred with Secretary Houston, of the Department of Agriculture.

THREE DEPARTMENTS ARE INVESTIGATING

Within a few hours from the time the President acted, three of the executive departments of the government were moving to learn the cause of the soaring prices of food throughout the country. Some officials, who believe the greater proportion of price increases have no connection whatever with the European war, but are the result of manipulations, attempts at corners or individual efforts of dealers, contend that the "conspiracy" section of the Sherman law covers the situation. Attorney-General McReynolds, however, will give an opinion on that feature to the President later.

Congressmen who already have introduced resolutions to investigate the rise in prices, and others who are preparing similar measures, viewed the action of the administration with satisfaction. They pointed out that, while four particularly has taken a keen interest in the matter, the executive departments are practically paralyzed, and millions of bushels are piled up in elevators or in freight cars strung across the country.

Secretary Redfield wrote Chairman Adamson, of the House Commerce Committee, suggesting an appropriation of \$10,000 for his part of the investigation.

"If the present temporary stoppage of trade with foreign countries is made the basis for an attempt in this country to put up prices artificially," said the secretary, "it is unpatriotic, I may say even damnable."

The food question was the first into which President Wilson plunged when he went back to his desk after his return from home, Ga., where he buried Mrs. Wilson.

TO DEFEND THE PEOPLE

The President early to-day sent the following letter to the Attorney-General:

"The rapid and unwarranted increase in the prices of foodstuffs in this country under the pretext of the conditions existing in Europe is so serious and vital a matter that I take the liberty of calling your attention to it. You would advise me what here is, under existing law, any action which the Department of Justice could take, either by way of investigation or legal process, and what Federal legislation, if any, would in your judgment be justifiable and warranted in the circumstances."

"I feel that this is a matter which we cannot let pass by without trying to serve the country. Certainly, if possible, against men who would take advantage of such circumstances to increase the price of food and the difficulties of living."

"Faithfully yours,
(Signed) WOODROW WILSON."

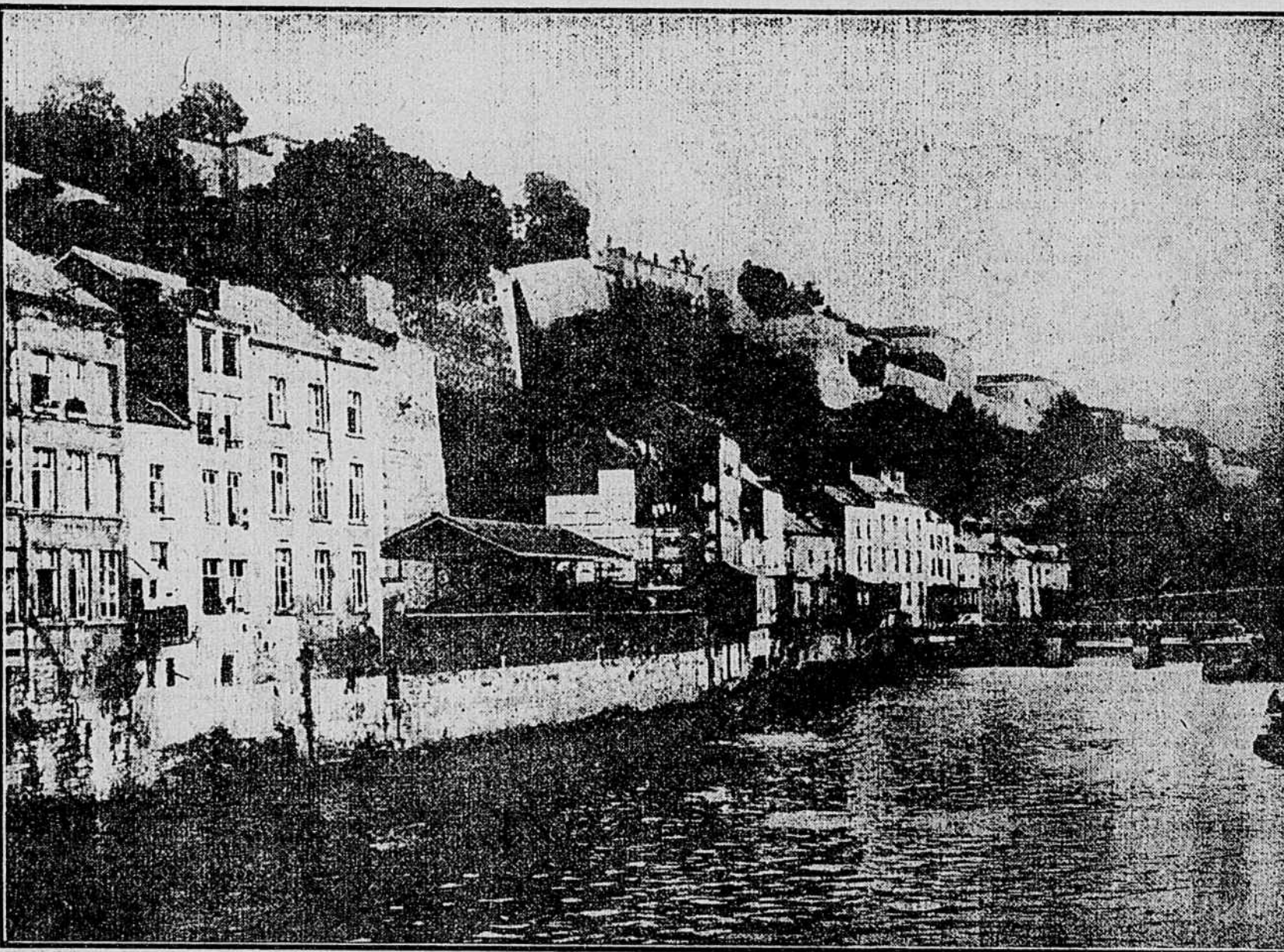
TWO INVESTIGATIONS

STARTED IN NEW YORK

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.] NEW YORK, August 13.—Mayor Mitchell and District Attorney Whitman set in motion to-day two investigations aimed at disclosing and bringing to punishment the men responsible for the increasing price of foodstuffs, clothing and household necessities.

There is a general belief that the European war is responsible for high prices here except in the case of commodities which originate abroad or of which the raw product must be imported.

(Continued on Second Page.)



A view of the strongly fortified city of Namur, Belgium, where a mighty force of allies is awaiting attack by the Germans.

GERMAN CRUISER SHOWS HEELS TO BRITISH SHIP

They Engage in Long-Range Duel in Darkness in Waters of North Atlantic.

NEITHER DOES ANY DAMAGE

Karlsruhe Is Intercepted While Taking Coal From Linder Kronprinz Wilhelm, but Refuses to Stand Up for Finish Fight.

HALIFAX, N. S., August 13.—For half an hour last Thursday night, His Majesty's ship Bristol, the smallest British warship in the North Atlantic, fought a long-range duel with the Karlsruhe, the largest and fastest of the German cruisers, which have been trying to intercept British shipping on the North Atlantic.

Fleeing from the British cruiser Suffolk, which intercepted the Karlsruhe coaling at sea from the North German Lloyd steamer Kronprinz Wilhelm, the German cruiser was intercepted at night by the Bristol southwest of Bermuda, and for half an hour a long-range running fight took place in the darkness.

CONDITIONS FOR ACCURATE GUNNERY ARE UNFAVORABLE

Conditions for accurate gunnery were so unfavorable the vessel's broadsides and the Karlsruhe's were out of range. The German would not stand and fight, according to the British participants, drew away from the Bristol, and after half an hour was out of range, making off south toward San Juan, where she put in for coal several days ago.

Details of this action, the first single ship fight in which a British warship has engaged in these waters in 100 years, were brought to Halifax to-day by His Majesty's ship Suffolk, the flag ship of Rear-Admiral Crockett, commanding the fourth cruiser squadron.

"We were steaming north on Thursday morning last, and the crew had just been ordered to general stations, when from the forecast head came the 'hail, enemy on the port bow,'" said the flag captain of the Suffolk in an official statement to-day.

"The order, 'Clear ship for action' was given."

"Off the port bow, eleven or twelve miles away, we could see the Karlsruhe, and after half an hour was out of range, making off south toward San Juan, where she put in for coal several days ago."

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TUCKER OUTLINES VIEWS FAVORING LOCAL OPTION

Disapproves State-Wide Prohibition From Moral, Social and Political Standpoint.

FOR LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT

Principles Involved, He Says, Are Imbedded in Virginia Institutions. Local Option Not Invented to Determine Liquor Question.

Public men in Virginia are rapidly expressing their position on the prohibition question which is to be voted on at the polls throughout the State on September 22. Attorney-General John Garland Pollard has just returned from a tour of speechmaking in the interests of State-wide prohibition. Harry St. George Tucker, former member of Congress and candidate for Governor in the Democratic primaries against Governor William Hodges Mann, has written to Judge George L. Christian the following statement of his views supporting local option.

"My Dear Judge, I am in receipt of your letter of July 29 asking for my views on the pending election in the State involving the adoption or rejection by the people of the enabling act."

"I had thought my views were so well known on this subject that I am a little surprised at your letter. When I was a candidate for governor four years ago before the people of this State I expressed my opinion in every speech I made throughout the State in favor of the local option principle, and as against State-wide prohibition. I came to that view very deliberately and have seen no reason to change it since."

"Indeed, time has only strengthened my conclusion that the local option is a unit and has power to influence the result as one in 150,000. If it be a matter that concerns his county as to whether an election be held, it is a matter that concerns his county as to whether an election be held."

"The result is most wise. It is not a modern principle. It is not a principle invented for the determination of the liquor question. It is a principle as old as the Anglo-Saxon race from which we sprung, imbedded in its institutions, and a bulwark of liberty, and a defense against tyranny. A great many people"

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BELGIANS FIRE DEADLY, BUT GERMANS ARE BRAVE

They Savagely Assault Barricades and Bridges, Facing Death in Storm of Bullets.

SOLDIERS FALL LIKE FLIES

After Seven Hours' Desperate Fighting in Battle of Diest, Kaiser's Troops Fall Back Shattered, and Defeat Turns to Rout.

[Special Cable to The Times-Dispatch.] LONDON, August 13.—An Exchange telegram from Brussels contains a remarkably graphic description of the fighting at the battle of Diest, where the first severe engagement between the troops of the Germans and the allies took place.

In this clash the Belgian left wing of the army, which had been engaged in a desperate battle for several hours, gained a decisive advantage over the Germans, whose forces numbered more than 10,000, composed of cavalry, artillery and a small supporting force of infantry. The Belgian forces consisted of one cavalry division and a mixed brigade, having several rapid-fire guns. Their total fighting strength was about 7,000. The apparent aim of the Germans was to hurl themselves through the North Trond Road at Tirlemont, in order to turn the Belgian army.

Early Wednesday the Germans dreg up their forces between Hasselt and Trond, and thence proceeded in the direction of Diest, chiefly by way of Stevoort and Herck Laville. The German wings, however, came up from different directions. Across the front from Trond to Herck Laville their left wing guarded the road from Trond to Tirlemont on the one hand, and the bridge of Orsmund and Guesen on the other hand. Their right protected the road from Hasselt to Diest.

THE BELGIAN COMMANDER FULLY AWARE OF THIS MOVEMENT FROM AERIAL AND CAVALRY RECONNAISSANCES ALLOWED THE ENEMY TO ADVANCE, WHILE HE MANEUVERED THE BELGIAN TROOPS TO THE MOST FAVORABLE POSITIONS. THIS COUNTRY IS DIVIDED INTO THREE PARTS BY TRIBUTARIES OF THE RIVER DEMER, NAMED THE HERCK, GELHE AND VELOGE, FLOWING SOUTH TO THE NORTH SEA. THE BELGIAN TROOPS WERE EXCHANGED BETWEEN THE ADVANCE GUARDS OF THE OPPOSING ARMIES. THE BELGIANS, HOWEVER, FELL BACK AND ALLOWED THE ENEMY TO ADVANCE SLOWLY.

The Belgians quickly became a fierce artillery duel with both sides entering vigorously into the fray, but as the battle progressed it became noticeable that the German artillery did not appear in the least skilful, and, therefore, its fire had little effect.

The Belgian fire, on the other hand, was deadly at a range of 2,000 meters, and played havoc with the German cavalry, which continued its advance on Haelen.

At Cortenaeken the battle became tremendously hot, and by 2 P. M. firing was raging furiously all along the line. The Belgian cavalry charged the

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SIX AMERICAN VESSELS GOING AFTER TOURISTS

They Will Visit Various Ports and Bring Back Nationals Stranded in Europe.

ASSEMBLE AT NEWPORT NEWS

Boats Must Be Overhauled and Made Suitable for Passenger-Carrying, but Delay Is Not Expected to Be Great—Have 8,000 Capacity.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.] WASHINGTON, August 13.—Following a meeting of the general relief board, Secretary Garrison announced to-day that six American ships, with a carrying capacity of 8,000, will be assembled at Newport News at an early date and sent to bring back Americans in Europe. In addition, vessels will be chartered in Europe, and another meeting of the board will be held tomorrow, with a view to engaging more ships.

Five of the transports now at Galveston will be used as relief ships. These are the Sumner, Kilpatrick, Denver, City of Macon and City of Memphis. The Cristobal, of the Panama Railway Service, will also be used.

MUCH WORK NECESSARY

TO MAKE THEM SUITABLE

In announcing the sending of these steamers, the War Department issued the following statement:

"To make useful these boats for this work, their present accommodations must be greatly enlarged, lighting and sanitary systems must be extended, sleeping accommodations must be installed and bedding and other supplies and necessities provided."

"While the boats are proceeding from Galveston to Newport News, all these necessities, as well as coal, food, etc., will be assembled there, and just as soon as the necessary work can be done on the boats they will be dispatched. It is hoped that it will only take a few days at Newport News to complete the equipment. The ports for which they will sail have not as yet been settled. They will be determined by the conditions found to exist at the time."

"We have, as already announced, authorized our diplomatic representatives in Europe to charter neutral ships to bring back Americans wherever this is possible, and to utilize all available space on all commercial lines that are still operating."

"To such facilities will now be added the accommodations furnished by the above named transports. After they have had their accommodations enlarged, as above stated, these six ships will accommodate 8,000 passengers. ONLY SIX LINERS UNDER

THE AMERICAN FLAG

"It must constantly be remembered that we have a very meagre source to draw upon for passenger-carrying ships. There are only six transatlantic liners under the American flag. They are, of course, continuing their service. The only other boats flying the American flag that are suitable to cross the Atlantic are the coastwise vessels. These are constructed as freight carriers, and passenger carrying is a mere incident to their business. Their nominal passenger-carrying capacity is very small, and it is only by practically reconstructing the interior and enlarging the lighting, sanitary and other facilities that they can be made to serve at all. This, of course, greatly increases the difficulty

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ADVANCE GUARDS ALL ALONG LINE ARE IN CONTACT

Many Bloody Engagements Serve as Prelude to Mighty Encounter to Come.

ALLIED FORCES CLAIM THEY ARE VICTORIOUS

Meanwhile, Berlin Is Silent, and German Version of Progress Is Unknown.

TRADE ROUTES ARE CLEARED

British Navy Has Ocean Lanes Open For Sailing of Merchant Ships.

That a great battle is impending between the Germans and the British, French and Belgian allies is the news that comes out of London. For days these opposing nations have been bringing up their forces, which now stretch in two long lines in Northern Belgium and along the French frontier.

That the French advance guards are in contact is evidenced by the reports of serious engagements at various points, perhaps the most important at Haelen.

East Kitchener, British Secretary of State for War, has warned the British press against the publication of news, other than official, relating to naval and military movements. Infringement of the order will mean suspension.

Italy is reported to have mobilized about 250,000 troops on the Swiss and Austrian frontiers, a purely precautionary measure. All passes over the Alps are strongly held. At the same time, the Italian Foreign Office has summoned home for a conference on the war situation its ambassadors at Paris, St. Petersburg, London and Berlin.

The government of Holland has officially given the French government renewed assurances that it will maintain its intention to make this neutrality respected. Sixty thousand Dutch troops are on the line of the frontier, and large areas of land have been flooded.

A number of wounded soldiers have arrived at Southampton from Belgium, and, although their nationality has not been made known, it is supposed they are British.

The Austrian troops have entered Russian Poland, where German troops also have been engaged, and Russian forces have captured the Austrian town of Sokal, in Galicia, by assault.

The American ambassador will take over the Austrian embassy in London, the Austrian ambassador having departed.

HOOR OF GREAT BATTLE IS APPRECIABLY NEARER

LONDON, August 13.—The hour of the great battle, which will have much to do with settling the future of Europe, is appreciably nearer.

Reports of engagements, which, when the main armies meet, will be considered insignificant, have been coming in all day, showing that the cavalry screens, sometimes accompanied by infantry, whose duty it is to do out with the invaders are being driven into contact in Northern Belgium near Haelen and on the French frontier near Othain.

Some meetings of these reconnoitring parties in the past have resulted in some rather severe fighting, in which, according to the French and Belgian official accounts, the allies scored successes.

The other side of the story is still to be told, for Berlin remains silent. In fact, the German War Office has had little to say since it reported the capture of the town of Haelen, and has been around that fortress is veiled in mystery. The Germans have resumed their attacks on the forts, but have they are progressing has not been considered in the official world.

Brussels had a report to-night that the forts had succeeded in silencing all the big German guns, but this is given little credence. It may be that, for the moment, the invaders have stopped their onslaught, either to rest or to adopt some new means of gaining their objects.

Lorraine, for the present, seems to have been left out of the fighting, while Alsace, like Western France, is the scene of engagements between the advance guards of the main German and French armies.

The Austrian army has begun to move on Russian Poland. No news has come from the Russo-German frontier, but much the same is going on there as in the other theaters of war. The German and Russian cavalry are busy trying to discover what the main armies are doing.

The British navy now virtually has cleared the trade routes of German and Austrian ships, or, at least, got them so closely watched that the admiralty advises shipowners to send all parts of the world arrive at English ports to-day, and, what is more important, steamers with provisions are coming from Scandinavian ports.

BELGIANS WIN IMPORTANT VICTORY NORTH OF NAMUR

PARIS, August 13.—Le Temps announces an important Belgian victory at Egzeve, north of Namur. The Germans sustained great losses.

ARTILLERY DESTROYED BY FIRE OF BELGIANS

LONDON, August 13.—All the heavy German artillery has been destroyed by the extraordinary accurate fire of the Liege forts, which still are intact, according to a dispatch received to-